

The Seattle Star

By mail out of city, 50c per month; 1 month, \$1.50; 6 months, \$7.75; year, \$15.00. In the State of Washington, outside the state, 75c per month, \$4.50 for 6 months, or \$9.00 per year. By carrier, city, 50c per month.



EDITORIALS — FEATURES



On the Issue of
Americanism There Can
Be No Compromise

AS THE FLU PERIL NEARS

Surgeon General Blue in an official bulletin just issued points out the probability of a recurrence of the influenza epidemic this fall and winter thruout the United States. His statement recognizes that the nation is little, if any, better prepared to fight the epidemic now than it was last fall.

"It is not yet certain that the germ has been isolated, or discovered," says Surgeon General Blue. "As a consequence there is no positive preventive."

It was to isolate the flu germ and discover a positive preventive that congress was asked to finance a scientific inquiry by appropriating a fund of \$5,000,000.

Congressional appropriation for influenza research was recommended by the American Medical association, with a membership which includes physicians in every city and town in the United States.

The bill to provide it has been pigeon-holed, after being referred to committees in the house and senate. Congress has incurred grave responsibilities by this delay. While the financing of research has been postponed, the season for recurrence of the influenza epidemic has drawn nearer, day by day, and now is close at hand.

Surgeon General Blue repeats what has been well known—that the new epidemic is not likely to be so severe as the epidemic of last fall. But an epidemic can be much lighter than it was last fall, and yet kill thousands, bringing death by pestilence to every city and village in the United States.

Already reports of new cases have reached the United States health service.

Congressman Fess, who introduced the flu-research resolution in the house, condemns the apathy of congressmen, and urges citizens to write their representatives, demanding immediate action on the bill to appropriate \$5,000,000. Congressman Emerson vigorously seconds Fess in this. Both say that if some amount is not appropriated to find a cure, congressmen may be confronted with the necessity of appropriating a greater amount for relief of victims of flu. Now is the time to act. Let all who realize the danger of a renewed epidemic write their senators and representatives today urging immediate action by congress.

Washington's senators are Miles Poindexter and Wesley L. Jones. Seattle's representative is John F. Miller. They should be addressed in Washington, D. C.

Almost an Alibi for Landlord

Editor The Star: It does a lot of good to swear at the landlord (I have been a tenant), or, as it is called now, the super profiteer. The swearing done, a practical man ought to examine thoroughly the situation, and analyze the causes of the present state of rents in Seattle.

We have seen a great deal of construction in the past, when it paid to do so. For instance, in 1909, when the rents were higher than today. That is a fact.

Today very few people, comparatively speaking, are building. Why? Because it does not pay. For instance: Get a lot in a fair district like the University. The lot itself is cheap, we all know it. It will cost.....\$1,000.00

A 3-room house, concrete foundation, would have cost, before the strike.....1,500.00

Capital invested.....\$2,500.00

Or borrowed at 7%.

The expenses are:

Taxes, which are abnormally high and

will go higher.....\$ 35.00

Depreciation.....50.00

Repairs.....50.00

Vacancies—we will suppose none.....

Total.....\$135.00

Such house can be rented at \$20 a month, or \$240 a year, or net \$105, or 4.20%.

Who is going to build to get 4.20%, when first-class bonds net 6 and 6½%?

It is evident that no one will care to build such house, unless he can rent it for \$28 a month, or 8% income. I say 8% income because the worry and the fact of being a landlord, a super profiteer, without forgetting, our blue laws (landlord responsible for any immoral act on his property, etc.)—all that is worth something.

I do not take sides. I am simply stating FACTS. The real reason of high rents, which are bound to go higher, is, first: Taxes, which are already past limits, and which will be 20% higher in 1920, and, second: High cost of building.

Yours very truly,

A. T.

Editor's Note: On the surface, it looks like you have a real, sure-enough alibi for the landlord.

If your premises are accepted.

The trouble is that your premises are wrong in at least one important particular: Such a house usually does not cost \$1,500 to build, and such a house is not on the rental market for \$20, so far as we can discover.

If any one here present can show us a new three-room house, with a basement, on a \$1,000 lot, in a good district, that can be had for \$20 a month, we will pass on the good news to the weary legion of house-hunters.

What The Star has decried, and what house hunters have been raging over, is the old, antique, out-of-repair houses that cost \$2,500 10 years ago to build, and that rent for \$40 a month up.

The new houses are not being rented. They are being sold.

It is the shacks, the decrepit cottages, the tired, out-at-the-elbow houses that once rented for \$15 that now rent for \$40, that make the homeless savage.

We agree that taxes are high.

But high as taxes are on the average rental property, they do not excuse the hundred per cent boost in rentals, because they have always and still do comprise a minor fraction of the overhead.

The employer who adds 50 per cent to the price of his product because he has raised wages 50 per cent, does what the landlord does when he boosts rents because taxes have increased.

The employer, like the landlord, loots the public with his increase, because his increased cost of labor really takes only 40 per cent of his earnings, but when he increases his prices 50 per cent he gouges the public as the labor cost was 100 per cent of his overhead.

Otherwise you make a good case. Figures are great little jokers.

Wilson spoke of "elements and chaos" that oppose the league idea, and now we have Senator Kenyon speaking of abuse and villification from the highest sources.

When restraint is lifted, people follow their natural bent. And it is an odd commentary on Boston culture that 2,000 natives shot craps on the street when the police went on strike.

Regardless of treaties, reservations and amendments, Uncle Sam will retain the right to interpret the Monroe Doctrine and vary the interpretation to meet the needs of the moment.

League advocates promise that people will not be thrown into war without their consent. Abolition of draft laws wasn't in our copy of the covenant.

Obstructing senators are charged with "preparing a situation that will bring on the final world war." What? Wasn't this one the final world war?

Paying tribute to each new faction that gained power in Tampico was no hardship to the oil interests. American users of gasoline have footed the bill.

All this time to think up only forty-five amendments! Surely somebody has been loafing on the job

It's a Comfort to Know the Worst Has Happened. —By McKee.



End of This Civilization

BY DR. FRANK CRANE

(Copyright, 1919, by Frank Crane)

It is entirely possible that we are nearing the end of this civilization, and that before our grandchildren come of age our present cities may be heaps of ruins, all the accumulated structures of the last 20 centuries of progress razed to the ground, most of the population of the world exterminated, and the remainder reduced to savagery.

Former civilizations have perished, Babylon, Nineveh, Egypt, Greece, Rome, were once as splendid and prosperous as we.

Not one of them realized that their end was near, when it approached. The proud Romans, in the day of Augustus, poo-pooed the idea that Rome could fall, quite as the New Yorker today would dismiss as absurd the prophecy that New York one day will be a heap of smoldering brick and rusted steel, inhabited only by spiders, snakes, lizards, and half-naked savages.

All we have to do, however, to bring this about, is to follow the lead of men who, blinded by partisanship, set themselves to wreck the hope of the world and defeat any concert of nations.

Because some sort of compact of nations is the only possible way to stop war.

For what will the next war mean?

It will be infinitely worse than the last. We had just begun to learn how to destroy when the war ended. The next war will begin where this left off.

Chemical warfare had just begun. A poison gas had been developed, as Herbert Quick writes—"a single drop of which on the skin of its victim would have been as surely fatal as a bullet thru the heart. No

gas mask could stop this contact spray for the destruction of human insects; for it did not need to reach the lungs. Aerial bombs had been perfected to rival, without pilots, the work of the airship. Armed with wings, these dreadful inventions, guided by electricity, could be sent for a hundred miles and made to drop and explode, and converting their machinery into shrapnel, drench with poison gas, blast, or tear down anything destructible at any determined point.

"Explosives more powerful than had ever been known were in process of manufacture. Let the world war be renewed, and there can be no doubt that new explosives, in larger quantities than have ever been launched in projectiles, will fly by their own power with their own wings for hundreds and probably thousands of miles to undo in an instant what man has taken ages to do: London will be annihilated from Berlin or Vienna, or New York and Philadelphia from any point in Europe. There is no reason to doubt the ability of a foe ultimately to launch destruction against America from Asia or the islands of either ocean."

Besides, we had not yet begun Bacterial Warfare, by which disease germs can be scientifically spread among the enemy folk.

The next war will make the ravage of Belgium look like a rehearsal.

A League of Nations has an even chance to end war for at least a generation. NOBODY HAS PROPOSED ANY OTHER WAY.

To oppose it, therefore, is a crime against humanity.

EARLY CLOSING BILL BEFORE PARLIAMENT

LONDON, Sept. 26.—The early closing bill, sponsored in parliament by Sir Kingsley Wood, empowers local authorities to set up an early closing council, to look after the interests of small traders who may be hit by the bill. It provides for compulsory closing at 7 o'clock on four nights of the week, 1 o'clock on one day, and 8 o'clock on Saturdays, one hour later each night being allowed to tobacconists and confectioners.

PRIMITIVE METHODS IN SHANTUNG MINES

SINANFU, Sept. 26.—Shantung coal fields are worked by most primitive methods. Most wasteful of all is the method of "unwatering" a mine. Skins, which cost \$50 each, are attached to iron rings to form buckets. One of the skins lasts about 10 days. They are raised and lowered by hand and it requires about seven men to operate one of the hoists. Steam or electric power and electric lights are taboo.

AMERICAN TOWN IN SOUTHERN ITALY

SEZZO, Sept. 26.—One of the most American spots in the world is this little town in the southern Pontine marshes of Italy. The whole Sezzo district has a population of only 1300. Eight hundred persons have emigrated in recent years to America. Eighty of them were American soldiers, and five Sezzo mothers wear mourning for American sons killed in the U. S. offensives.

TOMORROW

IN 489, on the 27th of September, the army of Theodor the Ostrogoth, defeated the forces of Odoacer, king of Italy, near Verona.

On the 27th of September, in 642, Sigebert, king of the East Angles, was assassinated. Sigebert was supposed to have founded Cambridge University. He was noted for his interest in education and was the founder of numerous churches, schools, and monasteries.

In 1731, on the 27th of September, a gang of 130 felons were taken from Newgate prison and put aboard a ship to be transported to America to colonize the country. Later in the century England changed the destination of her transported criminals to Botany Bay and favored America with shiploads of destitute people just discharged from the poor houses.

On the 27th of September, in 1777, the continental congress met at Lancaster, Pa. The members of congress had retreated to Lancaster from Philadelphia, a distance of 65 miles, when General Howe was about to enter Philadelphia.

We'll Say So

"But," as the man remarked to the telephone operator, "I'll fight it out on this line if it takes all summer."

CANT LIVE UP TO HIS NAME
Owing to a breakdown in the factory, D. Peddler will not be able to deliver also this week.—Advertisement in New Philadelphia (A) Times.

Dear Editor:
I remember that grocery, the one that sold potatoes at 55 cents a bushel and eggs at 23 cents a dozen. One thing that helps me to remember it is that I was out of a job and couldn't borrow even 22 cents, all my friends also being out of jobs.—W. F.

QUESTIONS WE CANNOT ANSWER
Could a spitball hurler be called a water pitcher?—J. S. D.

I have a beautiful mahogany bed but no tick. If I were to hang a pendulum on it would I get a tick?—W. R. G.

My husband is a cornet player and he makes good money but does not save a cent. Is it because he

is always blowing himself?—F. T. H.
Is the key to an apartment house a round one or is it a flat key?—J. C. E.

The telephone company suggested that I put in a party line. What kind should I put in, republican or democratic?—Mrs. G. L. S.

The dancing masters all over the country are going to try to drive out jazz and shimmy. One might say there is a reform on foot.

NO DOUBT LOST BY A WAITER
Lost — Gray cloth, pocketbook, \$2,000 in change. Gazette. Reward.—Advertisement in Colorado Springs (Col.) Gazette.

Health authorities say these are the best maneuvers in fighting flu: Eating three square meals a day. Sleeping in open air. Exercising. Being cheerful. If the doctors insist upon us being cheerful we shall never use the telephone again.

But, as the electrician remarked, "I try to keep posted on the current news."

Products that Packers Sell

Their Number Grossly Exaggerated

The Federal Trade Commission has published a list of some 640 articles said to be sold by the packers.

This list is ridiculously padded in order to scare people into the belief that the packers are getting control of the food supply of the nation.

For example, the list includes not only "beef sides" and "beef cuts," but also over 60 other items of beef products and by-products.

Over 90 articles listed are not sold to the outside trade but are raw materials and supplies, such as brick, cement, etc., used by Swift & Company in carrying on its business.

Glaring duplications appear, such as "sardines" and "canned sardines"; "butterine" and "oleomargarine"; "dried sausages" and "drysausage," etc.

The list includes 37 kinds of sausage; 4 different kinds or preparations of beef tongue, etc., etc.

Simmered down, Swift & Company handles in addition to meats and meat by-products, only butter, eggs, cheese, poultry, canned goods, lard substitutes, and to a very small extent, dried and salt fish. And the proportion which we handle of the total supply of any one of these is absurdly small.

Do you want to be fooled by such misleading and ridiculous statements of the Trade Commission? Do you want radical legislation based on such absurd evidence?

Let us send you a "Swift Dollar,"
It will interest you.
Address Swift and Company
Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Ill.

Swift & Company, U. S. A.

Seattle Local Branch, 201-11 Jackson Street
J. L. Yocum, Manager

